

Y. Hayashi, et al.  
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**IN THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend the Claims as to read as follows:**

**Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 14 (previously amended) A method for preventing or treating Sjögren's syndrome which**

**comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of**

**α-fodrin,**

**an antigenic fragment available upon proteolysis of α-fodrin with a protease, which comprises an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, or**

**a salt thereof,**

**wherein the α-fodrin or antigenic fragment has a molecular weight of from about 2K to about 240K.**

**Claims 15-25 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 26 (previously added) The method of claim 14, wherein the molecular weight of said α-fodrin or antigenic fragment is from about 100K to about 140K.**

**Claim 27 (Cancelled)**